

Message from New WFOT President

Kit Sinclair

I have a vision. We have a vision. The World Federation of Occupational Therapists will be a cohesive international organization and the key international representative for occupational therapists worldwide. It is a shared vision of promoting health and participation for all people equally in society—a theme that was present throughout our recent Congress in Stockholm. Yes, we have issues to address. We need to raise our profile internationally and have everyone in the world and in every community, know what occupational therapy is, and we can do it!

I wish to thank Carolyn Webster and the past Executive for moving us to this point in our restructuring of the Federation. Carolyn showed the warmth and caring, the ability to present the dynamic face of our profession while still valuing the uniqueness and contribution of every member. The organizational restructuring has already shown effect. I also wish to thank the Programme Coordinators and every member of WFOT for working together so hard toward our achievements. We have a great number of initiatives that have come or are coming to fruition. Our new Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists has just been ratified at Council 2002. Our website is constantly evolving. OTION is an initiative set up by interested individual members of WFOT. Our WFOT documents and website are now translated into the official languages and are continuing to be translated into other languages around the world, thus allowing us to be more inclusive.

The WFOT2002 Congress is a visible demonstration of the positive developments that are taking place in our dynamic Federation. I look forward to playing a part in facilitating the ongoing work towards meeting our objectives. I also wish to acknowledge our new Executive as we enter a new cycle. We celebrated our 50th anniversary at the Congress and you could feel the energy and vitality of this dynamic organization. Our amazing founding mothers who started the legacy with humour and warmth, provided us with a firm footing 50 years ago in Sweden. Our occupational therapists continue to carry the

Federation forward with commitment and energy. New organizational members are joining the Federation at every Council Meeting. They bring with them their experience, their culture, their skills and expertise. It is wonderfully exciting to gain new members, the latest being Latvia, Italy, Tanzania and Thailand, as full organization members. Our Federation values what everyone contributes. It is about sharing and learning from each other, which were well demonstrated in our WFOT Congress in Sweden.

I am very privileged to be part of the World Federation and proud to be an occupational therapist.

Kit Sinclair

President

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PS: If you wish to learn more about me please visit my homepage:
www.rs.polyu.edu.hk/kit